

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 129330
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SCS-06 CA-01 PA-01 HA-05 EB-08
PPT-01 /037 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:FHGERLACH:NEA/P:RUNDELAND:SLB
APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:JWTTWINAM
L/CA - MR. DALTON
SCS - MR. LAMBERT
L/NEA - MR. SMALL

-----075067 220452Z /20

R 212302Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 129330

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, SA

SUBJECT: THE MACDONALD CASE

REF: STATE 125903

1. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED ON CASE:
2. QUESTION: WHAT DO YOU HAVE ON THE MACDONALD CASE?

ANSWER: WE HAVE RECEIVED THE REPORT WE REQUESTED FROM OUR
CONSULATE GENERAL IN DHAHRAN AND I HAVE COPIES AVAILABLE
FOR YOU.

3. QUESTION: ARE OTHER AMERICANS BEING FORCED TO REMAIN
IN SAUDI ARABIA?

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 129330

ANSWER: THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW PREVIOUS CASES WHERE AMERI-
CAN BUSINESSMEN HAVE BEEN REQUIRED TO STAY PENDING
RESOLUTION OF COMMERCIAL DISPUTES.

(IF PRESSED: THERE IS CURRENTLY ONE SUCH CASE.)

--WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN HAVING BEEN JAILED OR MISTREATED AS A RESULT OF COMMERCIAL DEALINGS. - -

--THERE ARE 11 AMERICANS IN SAUDI JAILS NOW, AFTER HAVING BEEN CONVICTED OF CRIMES UNDER SAUDI LAW, BUT NONE BECAUSE OF COMMERCIAL DISPUTES.

--WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT THERE ARE AT LEAST 30,000 AMERICANS IN SAUDI ARABIA.

4. QUESTION: WHAT IS THE SAUDI LEGAL BASIS FOR DENYING EXIT FROM THE COUNTRY?

ANSWER: ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SAUDI ARABIA, AN EXIT VISA IS REQUIRED IN ORDER FOR FOREIGNERS TO DEPART.

--THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT DOES HAVE THE LEGAL AUTHORITY TO DENY EXIT TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SATISFIED THE REQUIREMENTS OF SAUDI LAWS, INCLUDING LAWS GOVERNING BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.

5. WHAT DOES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DO TO PROTECT AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN IN SAUDI ARABIA?

ANSWER: WE HAVE CONSULAR OFFICERS IN DHAHRAN, RIYADH, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 129330

AND JIDDA TO ASSIST AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AND TO HELP THEM RESOLVE PROBLEMS.

--WE ALSO HAVE ACTIVE COMMERCIAL SECTIONS IN OUR POSTS IN THESE THREE CITIES TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT.

--IN THE CASE OF MR. MACDONALD, THE CONSUL GENERAL IN DHAHRAN HAS BEEN PERSONALLY INVOLVED.

--WE MAINTAIN A CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT TO FACILITATE OUR EXPANDING COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP.

6. QUESTION: DO THE SAUDIS HAVE THE RIGHT TO TAKE AN AMERICAN'S PASSPORT?

ANSWER: ALL BUSINESS FIRMS IN SAUDI ARABIA ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO HOLD THE PASSPORTS OF THEIR NON-SAUDI RESIDENT EMPLOYEES AND TO APPROVE APPLICATIONS FOR EXIT VISAS.

--IN THE CASE OF MR. MACDONALD, HE WAS IN SAUDI ARABIA ON A VISITOR'S VISA AND WAS NOT REQUIRED UPON ENTRY TO YIELD

CONTROL OF HIS PASSPORT AS IS REQUIRED FOR RESIDENT
FOREIGN EMPLOYEES. HOWEVER, SAUDI AUTHORITIES TOOK CON-
TROL OF HIS PASSPORT TO ASSURE HE WOULD REMAIN IN COUNTRY
UNTIL THE COMMERCIAL DISPUTE IN WHICH HE WAS INVOLVED

WAS RESOLVED. THIS IS THE NORMAL PRACTICE IN SAUDI
ARABIA. VANCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE129330
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FHGERLACH:NEA/P:RUNDELAND:SLB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780214-1221
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780535/aaaabdtj.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 18cf8a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 125903
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2622473
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE MACDONALD CASE
TAGS: CASC, SA, (MACDONALD, JOHN L)
To: DHAHRAN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/18cf8a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014